

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 07920 280657Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8082
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW, IR
SUBJECT: WEST GERMAN REACTOR SALES TO IRAN

1. ON APRIL 25, 1978, THE WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPER "DIE WELT" REPORTED REMARKS BY STATE SECRETARY DETLEV ROHWEDDER OF THE WEST GERMAN (FRG) ECONOMICS MINISTRY ON THE IRANIAN-FRG REACTOR SALE. ROHWEDDER, ACCOMPANYING FRG PRESIDENT WALTER SCHEEL BACK TO BONN FROM A RECENT VISIT TO TEHRAN, SAID THAT THE SHAH WAS PLANNING TO PURCHASE FOUR ADDITIONAL WEST GERMAN NUCLEAR REACTORS, IN ADDITION TO THE TWO ALREADY BEING BUILT BY KRAFTWERK UNION AT BUSHIR.

2. ROHWEDDER SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS ON FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS PURCHASE, WORTH ABOUT 20 BILLION MARKS (CIRCA TEN BILLION DOLLARS), WOULD BEGIN ON MAY 2 IN TEHRAN AND CONTRACTS POSSIBLY COULD BE SIGNED BY FALL THIS YEAR. ROHWEDDER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE SHAH HAD INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN PAYING FOR THESE REACTORS THROUGH A BARTER ARRANGEMENT FOR OIL, BUT WHETHER WEST GERMAN COMPANIES WOULD ACCEPT THIS WAS NOT CERTAIN. THE ABOVE TRANSACTION (ACCORDING TO "DIE UNCLASSIFIED

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WELT"), TAKEN TOGETHER WITH OTHER PENDING LARGE-SCALE WEST GERMAN PROJECTS FOR IRAN, WOULD REQUIRE AN EXPORT GUARANTEE OF ALMOST 40 BILLION MARKS (20 BILLION DOLLARS); THIS WOULD BE THE LARGEST SINGLE EXPORT GUARANTEE EVER ISSUED BY WEST GERMANY.
STOESSEL

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